



Champaign Manufactured Gas Plant Environmental Project Open House

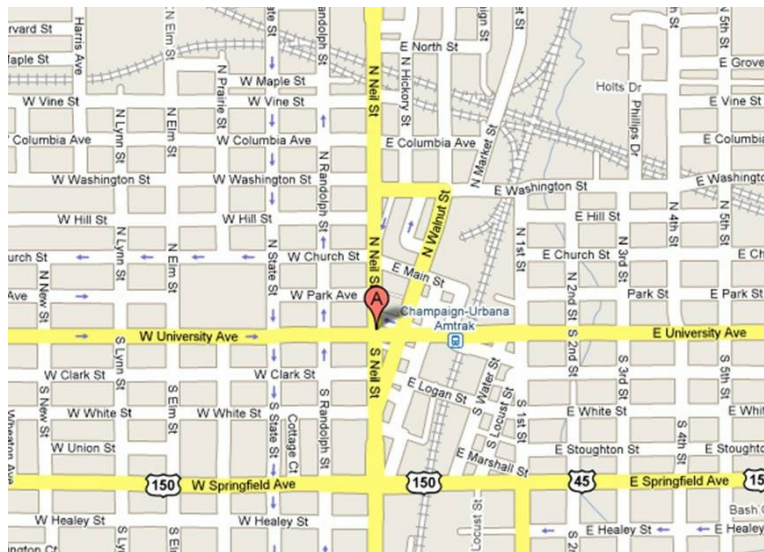
Ameren invites you to visit our Open House
for the
Former Manufactured Gas Plant Site
Environmental Project
Champaign City Hall
102 N. Neil Street, Champaign

Wednesday, March, 11, 2009

Drop in anytime between
4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Representatives from Ameren, the project contractor, the
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the Illinois Department of Public Health
will be available to answer your questions.

Displays and refreshments will be provided.





Questions & Answers: Champaign, Illinois, Manufactured Gas Plant Site Project Update Fact Sheet – February 2009

What is the current status of the Champaign former manufactured gas plant environmental project?

Ameren Illinois Utilities submitted to the Illinois EPA the On-Site Remedial Objectives Report (ROR) and Remedial Action Plan (RAP) in December 2008. Ameren Illinois Utilities has received comments from the Illinois EPA on the documents and those comments have been addressed. The Illinois EPA issued its final approval of the ROR and RAP documents in February 2009.

What are the On-Site Remedial Objectives Report and Remedial Action Plan and how do they apply to the project?

These two documents are required for sites that are in the Illinois EPA's Site Remediation Program. The on-site Remedial Objectives Report (ROR) evaluates the chemical compounds related to the former gas manufacturing operations that are present in both soil and groundwater on the Ameren Illinois Utilities' property. It describes how people could come in contact with residues and/or impacted dust and water. Possible routes of exposure include skin contact, inhaling or swallowing (ingesting) the substances. The ROR describes how these routes will be addressed. It establishes numerical remediation target levels (Remedial Objectives, or ROs) to meet the state's environmental regulations.

The on-site Remedial Action Plan (RAP) discusses the proposed actions designed to make sure the property is safe to use over the long term. To meet this goal, the following measures will be taken on the Ameren Illinois Utilities property:

- Excavation and disposal of impacted soil exceeding ROs to a depth of 10 feet below the surface;
- Treatment of impacted soil exceeding ROs at depths deeper than 10 feet using in-place chemical oxidation;
- Ameren will rely on the city of Champaign's existing city-wide groundwater ordinance to address the soil-to-groundwater and groundwater ingestion pathways.
- Installation of a clean soil barrier to prevent exposure to any remaining residues that are deeper than 10 feet.

What is the schedule for remediation?

Once Illinois EPA has given its approval to the Remedial Action Plan, Ameren Illinois Utilities will announce a date when on-site remedial activities will begin. We anticipate the on-site remedial actions will begin in March 2009 with completion in the fourth quarter 2010.

Do I need to be concerned when the work occurs?

Ameren Illinois Utilities is working with its contractor and the city to make sure the neighborhood is inconvenienced as little as possible. Working hours will be 6:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., with active work beginning at 7:00 a.m., on weekdays only. There will be temporary street closures at times throughout the project, with workers controlling traffic at these times.

There will be about four or five truck trips per hour during the week when excavated material is hauled away and backfill is brought to the site. Ameren Illinois Utilities has worked with the city to determine the best route for the trucks. They will enter and exit the neighborhood from Fifth Street.

The majority of excavation and loading is planned to be done within a temporary air containment structure, which often is referred to as a “tent.” However, excavation of areas of less impacted soil will be necessary outside the “tent”. The “tent” has an airtight fabric roof and walls supported by metal framing. Overhead doors serve as entrances. The “tent” is designed to withstand high winds and snowstorms. A ventilating system will maintain the inside air at a lower pressure than the outside air, which serves to minimize uncontrolled releases. Air will be vented to the outside through filters that capture dust and vapors from the tar and the vehicle exhaust. The enclosure and its filtering system will significantly reduce the vapors and possibility of tar-like odors in the area.

Great care is taken to ensure that public health is protected during these projects. The Illinois EPA is reviewing the Remedial Action Plan prepared for the project. The area will be fenced and persons not involved with the project will be kept away from active work areas.

People near the site during the project may smell a tar-like odor at times. The odor may be noticeable when vapors from the excavated material get into the open air, even at levels well below those that would be unsafe. The workers will be able to use odor-suppressing foams and tarps to control these odors during excavation activities outside the “tent”. The air monitors installed at the edge of the work area and portable air monitoring equipment will be used to ensure that there is no harmful release of vapors or dust during the soil removal.



Outside view of the “tent” structure. The “tent,” which has an impervious skin, is designed to withstand high winds and snowstorms. Photo taken at the Ameren Illinois Utilities MGP remediation in Jacksonville.



The “tent” ventilating system maintains the inside air at a lower pressure than the outside air to minimize uncontrolled releases. Air is vented to the outside through filters (shown here at Ameren’s Jacksonville MGP site) that capture dust and vapors from the tar and the vehicle exhaust. The enclosure and its filtering system will significantly reduce the vapors and possibility of tar-like odors in the area. Photo taken at the Ameren Illinois Utilities MGP remediation in Jacksonville.



Inside the tent, specially trained workers remove source material and contaminated soil. The material is hauled away in covered trucks. Clean fill is then placed in the excavated area. Photo taken at the Ameren Illinois Utilities MGP remediation in Jacksonville.

What is the extent of cleanup for the on-site project?

A drawing is attached that depicts the extent of impacts from the former MGP site. The site boundaries are shown on the drawing. The on-site work will begin in the first quarter of 2009. We expect to begin to address off-site impacts later this year as we complete our discussions with the owners of the off-site properties.

How are impacts to off-site properties being addressed?

Each affected off-site property is being addressed through individual RAPs that discuss the proposed actions being implemented. The property owner and the Illinois EPA must agree to the RAP before it is carried out. The remedial objectives for each off-site property will also ensure the property will meet the state's strictest environmental standards. The final selection of the remedial alternatives will depend on technical feasibility and the discussions with the property owners.

When will the environmental project be completed?

Soil removal will continue until samples collected from the excavation and sent to a certified laboratory confirm that the project has met environmental objectives established in the Remedial Objectives Report. Ameren expects to submit a report to the Illinois EPA for its review in 2010. Once the agency determines that project objectives were met, it issues "No Further Remediation" letters for the properties to the Ameren Illinois Utilities. The letters are recorded with the Champaign County Recorder of Deeds so that future purchasers of the former plant property will be aware of its history.

How may people in the community ask questions and offer opinions about this project?

Ameren is committed to open communication with those interested in the project. We have placed a collection of documents associated with the project in a Site Information Repository located at the Douglass Branch of the Champaign Public Library at 504 E. Grove Street. The telephone number of the library is 217-403-2090. Library hours are Monday – Thursday 10:00 AM until 8:00 PM, Friday 10:00 AM until 6:00 PM, Saturday 10:00 AM until 4:00 PM.

Additional inquiries about the project can be made by calling Mr. Leigh Morris with Ameren at 217-535-5228 or by e-mail at Lmorris@ameren.com.

Inquires regarding Illinois EPA's oversight of this project can be made by contacting Stan Black at 217-785-1427 or by e-mail at stan.black@illinois.gov. His mailing address is Office of Community Relations, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, PO Box 19276, Springfield, IL 62794-9276. The city of Champaign has cooperated with the investigation and has provided oversight for the project in addition to the Illinois EPA. Champaign City Council District 1 Representative Gina Jackson has offered to assist neighboring residents who wish to obtain more information about the project. Those who wish to discuss the project with Ms. Jackson may contact her at 217-352-3199.